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THE CABLE TOW



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Brotherhood Beyond Borders

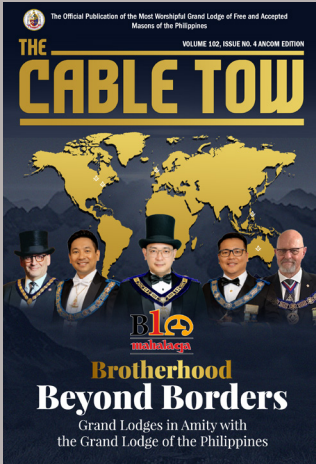
Grand Lodges in Amity with
the Grand Lodge of the Philippines

ANCOM 2026 TAGAYTAY CITY

Attending Grand Lodges



THE CABLE TOW



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EDITORS' NOTE

The Grand Lodge of the Philippines warmly welcomes our distinguished international delegates to ANCOM 2026. This significant gathering stands as a testament to the enduring bonds of brotherhood that transcend borders, cultures, and languages, uniting us all in the shared principles of Freemasonry.

The editorial team of *The Cable Tow* gratefully acknowledges the invaluable contributions of our Grand Historian, VW Jeshar Y. Go and the team of writers whose work enriched this ANCOM edition.

May this issue serve not only as a chronicle of this momentous occasion but also as an inspiration for continued unity, reflection, and service among Brethren around the world.

Fraternally,

VW Edward Q. Barin & Danilo L. Concepcion

Editors-In-Chief

Brotherhood Beyond Borders: Grand Lodges in Amity with the Grand Lodge of the Philippines

The amicable relationship between two Grand Lodges that have officially acknowledged each other as regular and legitimate is referred to as “amity in Masonry.” Amity is the embodiment of a dynamic bond of brotherhood that is demonstrated through collaboration, mutual assistance, and participation in a variety of Masonic activities across jurisdictions, transcending mere formal acceptance and acknowledgement.

When Grand Lodges are in harmony, their members are permitted to visit each other’s lodges, participate in the Craft’s activities, and participate in programs that support the principles of Freemasonry. The universal nature of fraternity is furthered by these interactions, which also reinforce the principles of friendship, ethics, and fraternal affection.

Presently, the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the Philippines is in Amity with more than 120 Grand Lodges spread across North America, South America, Europe, Australia, and Asia.

Maintaining the Bonds of Brotherhood

The diverse methods by which Freemasonry benefits society and strengthens the bonds of brotherhood among Masons worldwide are illustrated by the endeavours of these Grand Lodges. These jurisdictions maintain the enduring principles of the Craft by engaging in fraternal involvement, education, and philanthropy.

Through their enduring friendship with the Grand Lodge of the Philippines, these sister jurisdictions work together to advance the common goal of establishing a more just and equitable world, as exemplified by the timeless principles of brotherly love, relief, and truth.

Significance of Masonic Recognition and Amity

Globally, the fraternal relations among Grand Lodges are governed by the fundamental principles of amity and recognition in Freemasonry. Within the global Masonic fraternity, these principles ensure reciprocal respect, legitimacy, and harmony.

1. Recognition of Masonry

Recognizance is the formal declaration by one Grand Lodge that another Grand Lodge is legitimate and regular in accordance with the ancient landmarks, customs, and principles of Freemasonry.

When a Grand Lodge grants recognition to another organization, it confirms that the other body:

- a. Had been legitimately established
- b. Conforms to the Ancient Charges and Landmarks of Freemasonry
- c. Performs conventional masonry with regularity
- d. Exclusive jurisdiction over its territory is maintained.
- e. Belief in a Supreme Being is necessary.
- f. It employs the Volume of the Sacred Law in its rituals.
- g. Disallows political and sectarian religious discourse within the lodge.

Approval by the Grand Lodge during its Annual Communication is typically required before recognition is granted, following a thorough investigation by the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Once recognition is achieved, the two Grand Lodges are recognised as jurisdictions that are capable of maintaining formal fraternal relations.

2. Amity in Masonry

The friendly and fraternal relationship that exists between two Grand Lodges that have granted recognition to each other is referred to as amity.

When two Grand Lodges are in friendly relations:

- a. Their members are permitted to visit each other's lodges, provided that they adhere to local regulations.
- b. These individuals may engage in Masonic activities in conjunction.
- c. Official communication and cooperation are maintained by their Grand Lodges.
- d. These organizations recognize one another as legitimate and regular Masonic organizations.

Amity is the practical relationship that follows the formal acknowledgement, and it is therefore the living expression of recognition.

3. Importance of Amity in Freemasonry

The universal character of Freemasonry is increased by the amity among Grand Lodges, as evidenced by:

- a. Encouragement of international brotherhood
- b. To promote cultural exchanges and fraternal visits
- c. Advocating for charitable and humanitarian endeavors
- d. The global preservation of the Craft's regularity and unity

By means of these fraternal connections, Freemasonry transcends national boundaries while simultaneously maintaining its solid foundation in its ancient traditions.

4. Role of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines

A number of regular Grand Lodges worldwide maintain amity and recognition with the Grand Lodge of the Philippines. The establishment of these relationships enables Filipino Masons to visit lodges in recognized jurisdictions while travelling abroad, and they extend a warm welcome to visiting brethren at Lodges in the Philippines.

Such relationships are indicative of the enduring principle that Freemasonry is a universal brotherhood, bound by mutual respect, shared values, and traditions.

Strengthening Masonic Amity Through Activities

Amity among Grand Lodges is most vividly illustrated through programs and activities that unite Masons across borders.

1. **Official Visits and Fraternal Delegations**

Frequently, Grand Masters and Grand Lodge officers go on official visits to sister jurisdictions. Many of these visits occur in conjunction with Annual Communications, installations of officers, or milestone celebrations of lodges and Grand Lodges.

These types of events promote the exchange of ideas, foster fraternal dialogue, and reaffirm the bonds of international brotherhood.

2. **Participation in International Masonic Conferences**

Regularly, Grand Lodges participate in Masonic gatherings that are both regional and international in scope. In these forums, representatives are able to engage in discussions regarding the Craft's concerns, exchange best practices in governance and ritual, and investigate collaborative initiatives that fortify the fraternity around the world.

3. Partnerships between charitable and humanitarian initiatives
A significant number of Grand Lodges extend their charitable endeavours beyond their own jurisdictions. Grand Lodges support initiatives that are focused on education, disaster relief, medical missions, and community development by sharing experiences throughout their relations of amity.

This cooperative endeavor serves as an illustration of the practical application of Masonic principles in the service of humanity.

4. The exchange of educational programs
Lectures, research, publications, and historical studies are exchanged among Grand Lodges to enhance Masonic education. Brethren of distinction are frequently requested to deliver lectures or contribute scholarly works that enhance comprehension of Masonic traditions, philosophy, and history.
5. Fraternal Visits and Lodge Fellowship
One of the most significant manifestations of amity takes place at the lodge level. Brethren who are travelling abroad are permitted to visit lodges administered by Grand Lodges in amity. They are greeted as brothers and are permitted to observe or participate in lodge activities.

In addition to fortifying the global fraternity of Masonry, these visits also fortify personal friendships.

6. Youth Collaboration with Dependent Organizations
Through appendant bodies and youth organizations, Grand Lodges also fortify fraternal bonds. Fellowship among the next generation of Masons is fostered and the global character of the fraternity is reinforced through international conventions and exchanges that involve youth Masonic groups.

Amity and the Universal Brotherhood of Masonry

The formal relationship between Grand Lodges is transformed into a dynamic and enduring partnership through the diverse activities of amity. While preserving the traditions and landmarks that unite the Craft, it allows Freemasonry to transcend national boundaries.

Maintaining robust relationships with sister Grand Lodges worldwide is indicative of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines' dedication to the principles of universal brotherhood, mutual respect, and service to humanity.

By means of ongoing cooperation and fraternal engagement, these bonds of amity guarantee that the light of Masonry can be seen across nations and generations.

Overseas Grand Lodges

Sister Jurisdictions in Amity with the Grand Lodge of the Philippines: Activities and Programs

It has been acknowledged for a long time that Freemasonry is a universal brotherhood that unites men of good character from various nations and cultures. Masons from all over the world are able to exchange ideas, collaborate in programs that promote charity, education, and community service, and share fellowship through the principle of amity among Grand Lodges.

This section emphasizes selected Grand Lodges abroad that exhibit the Craft's enduring vitality through their programs and whose fraternal relationships with the Grand Lodge of the Philippines continue to fortify the bonds of universal brotherhood.

The United Grand Lodge of England Grand Lodge of the World's Mother Leadership, Charity, and Brotherhood: A Legacy Since 1717 Modern Freemasonry's Origins

The United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE) is one of the few institutions that has achieved the same level of respect and influence throughout the extensive and esteemed history of Freemasonry. Having established the first organized framework of Grand Lodge governance that would influence contemporary Freemasonry worldwide, it is regarded as the Mother Grand Lodge of the world, having been established in 1717.

Four lodges convened at the historic Goose and Gridiron Pub in London, where the narrative began. On that significant day in June 1717, these lodges established the Premier Grand Lodge of England, marking the inaugural formal event.

An organization that regulates Freemasonry

It has been acknowledged for a long time that Freemasonry is a universal brotherhood that unites men of good character from various nations and cultures. Masons from all over the world are able to exchange ideas, collaborate in programs that promote charity, education, and community service, and share fellowship through the principle of amity among Grand Lodges.

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The Scope of Freemasonry in England and BeyondThe United Grand Lodge of England is responsible for the supervision of Freemasonry in the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, Wales, and England, as well as many international districts worldwide. UGLE currently oversees

a membership of approximately 170,000 Freemasons, who met in more than 7,000 lodges. Every lodge serves as a central hub of camaraderie, where members regularly convene to perform ceremonies, discuss lodge affairs, and strengthen the bonds of brotherhood.

In this jurisdiction of Freemasonry, the development of personal accountability, integrity, and moral character is prioritised. Through symbolic teachings, members are encouraged to improve their personal growth and have a positive influence on their communities.

Traditional ceremonies and customs. Men aged 18 and older are eligible for UGLE membership, regardless of their social background, ethnicity, or religious affiliation. In Freemasonry, the persistent conviction that character and integrity are the genuine criteria of a man is embodied by this inclusive ethos.

UGLE has established the University Scheme, which consists of 87 university lodges across the United Kingdom, in recognition of the importance of engaging younger generations. Student and young professional mentorship, leadership development, and substantial service opportunities are provided by these lodges.

At the core of English Freemasonry is Freemasons' Hall. The splendid Freemasons' Hall, situated on Great Queen Street in Covent Garden, London, serves as the United Grand Lodge of England's headquarters.

Completed in 1933, this extraordinary Art Deco landmark is acknowledged as a Grade II listed structure* and is one of the most impressive Masonic temples in the world. The dignity and heritage of the Craft are reflected in the grand architecture, intricate symbolism, and majestic lodge rooms.

Freemasonry's hall serves numerous functions. It operates as:

- UGLE's administrative headquarters
- A ceremonial center for significant Masonic events
- A cultural venue for concerts, lectures, and exhibitions
- A public heritage site that welcomes visitors from around the world,

Valuable insight into the history of Freemasonry is provided by the visitor center, museum, archives, and library that are all located within the building. Throughout guided tours and exhibitions, the public is encouraged to gain insight into the fraternity's traditions, contributions, and ongoing relevance.

The Freemasons' Hall is a dynamic cultural venue that hosts a variety of concerts, including orchestral and choral performances, as well as organ recitals, thereby fortifying its relationship with the broader community.

Under the United Grand Lodge of England, Freemasonry is distinguished by its profound dedication to humanitarian service and charity.

One of the largest charitable organisations in the United Kingdom is the Masonic Charitable Foundation, which is at the heart of these endeavours. To support a diverse array of causes, Freemasons donate millions of pounds annually through this foundation.

Key areas of charitable support include:

- Healthcare and medical research initiatives
- Disaster relief and emergency response
- Community grants and local welfare programs
- Educational scholarships and youth assistance

Freemasons have also been instrumental in times of national crisis. Funding ambulances, purchasing medical equipment, and providing assistance to healthcare professionals have all been substantial contributions to the National Health Service (NHS).

Each year, Freemasons contribute thousands of volunteer hours to community service projects, in addition to financial support, illustrating that charity in Freemasonry is not solely expressed through donations but also through personal involvement.

Tradition, Transparency, and the Future In recent years, the United Grand Lodge of England has implemented significant initiatives that have been directed toward transparency and modernization. This initiative is designed to preserve the traditions that have guided the fraternity for centuries, while also improving public understanding of Freemasonry.

Freemasons' Hall now draws thousands of visitors annually through cultural events and guided tours, such as its participation in Open House London, a citywide festival that salutes architecture and heritage. Educational initiatives, exhibitions, and digital outreach have improved the public's understanding of the fraternity's principles of integrity, friendship, respect, and service.

The role of UGLE in the preservation of international Masonic relations is equally significant. By capitalising on its long-standing connections with established Grand Lodges worldwide, the organization continues to promote collaboration, dialogue, and unity within the international Masonic community. After three centuries of existence, the United Grand Lodge of England remains a beacon for Freemasonry. Beginning in an eighteenth-century London tavern, UGLE has since become a global leader in the Craft, consistently embodying the timeless principles of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth.

The United Grand Lodge of England has served as a beacon of Freemasonry for over three centuries, fostering a sense of brotherhood and service that is universal.





A Legacy of Brotherhood, Charity, and Leadership: The Grand Lodge of New York

Founded in 1781, the Grand Lodge of New York is one of the most historic and influential Masonic jurisdictions in the world. Based on the customs of the United Grand Lodge of England, the original Grand Lodge that influenced modern Freemasonry, it has been instrumental in the growth and dissemination of the Craft throughout North America.

The jurisdiction has drawn men of distinction who have embraced the timeless principles of Freemasonry: brotherly love, relief, and truth, for more than two centuries. Harry Houdini, the legendary magician and escape artist; John Jacob Astor, the visionary entrepreneur; and Fiorello La Guardia, the reformist statesman and former mayor of New York City, are among its notable members.

Their legacy is indicative of the broader influence of Freemasonry throughout history, which has been echoed by prominent Masons worldwide, including George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Mark Twain, Louis Armstrong, Winston Churchill, and John Wayne. These individuals served as exemplars of leadership, integrity, and service to humanity.

Masonic Brotherhood Fund: A Commitment to Relief

Masonic Brotherhood Fund is the cornerstone of its charitable mission, a critical initiative that is committed to providing support to Masons and their families during periods of financial hardship. Guided by the enduring obligation to “Help, Aid, and Assist,” the fund offers compassionate assistance during times of crisis.

Assistance may encompass:

- Support for housing and rental
- Medical treatment and pharmaceuticals
- Vision care and health-related expenses
- Emergency financial assistance for families

To guarantee that assistance is provided to those who are truly in need, each request is conducted through an exhaustive and meticulous review process. Despite the fact that Freemasonry promotes self-reliance, this fund serves as a powerful testament to the fraternity's dedication to ensuring that no Brother is left to confront adversity alone.

“The Masonic Care Community: Compassion in Action”

Masonic Care Community (MCC) is one of the most significant expressions of Masonic philanthropy in the United States, and it is situated in Utica. The Masonic Home, which was initially established, has evolved into a comprehensive senior-care campus that spans more than 400 acres.

Three levels of care are offered by the MCC:

Acacia Village - Independent Living: Comfortable one- and two-bedroom residences that foster an active and independent lifestyle in a supportive Masonic environment.

Wiley Hall is a residential care facility that provides private accommodations and moderate medical support. The facility is equipped with modern amenities and specialised medical staff.

Skilled Nursing – Health Pavilion A cutting-edge facility that provides continuous nursing services and advanced medical care with dignity and compassion.

MCC is a vibrant center of Masonic life, as over 25% of its residents are Masons, their spouses, or widows. Leadership trainings, St.

John's Day celebrations, and youth activities involving the Order of DeMolay, the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, and the Order of the Amaranth are among the Masonic gatherings that the community frequently hosts.

An enduring testament to a life of brotherhood and service, the cemetery is a deeply symbolic feature of the campus, serving as the final resting place of over 2,700 Masons and their families.

Within the MCC, Infinity Lodge is one of the most remarkable initiatives, as it was exclusively established for residents. It enables elderly Brethren to continue participating in Masonic activities, thereby guaranteeing that the bonds of fraternity persist throughout life.



Advancement of Human Health: Masonic Medical Research Institute

The Masonic Medical Research Institute (MMRI) was established by the Grand Lodge in 1958, thereby expanding its mission of providing relief to all humanity beyond the fraternity. Through the generosity of New York Masons, the institute was initially established to combat rheumatic diseases. Since then, it has developed into a prestigious center for biomedical research.

MMRI's current focus is on:

Complex disease research through genetic and molecular methods

Research and development of novel therapeutic strategies

Conducting collaborative research with academic and medical institutions across the globe

Ensuring that the pursuit of knowledge and healing continues for generations to come is equally important, as is its role in training future scientists and medical professionals.

Lively Illustration of Masonic Principles

The Grand Lodge of New York is a prime example of how Freemasonry transforms its principles into meaningful action, providing financial assistance to distressing families, compassionate elder care, and groundbreaking scientific research.

Despite the passage of more than two centuries since its inception, it remains a testament to the Craft's enduring principles of charity, unity, enlightenment, and service to humanity. It serves as a powerful reminder that Freemasonry, despite its history in ancient tradition, is a vital force for good in the contemporary world through its numerous initiatives.

Grand Lodge of Japan (1957) Brotherhood Across Different Cultures and Continents

The Japanese Freemasonry exemplifies a remarkable fusion of global camaraderie, global diversity, and tradition. Established in 1957, the Grand Lodge of Japan has developed into a distinguished Masonic jurisdiction that serves as a critical conduit for Freemasons worldwide, while also advocating for the enduring principles of brotherhood, charity, and moral advancement.

Managing numerous lodges throughout Japan, the jurisdiction is headquartered in the vibrant capital of Tokyo. These lodges bring together individuals from a variety of professional backgrounds, cultures, and nationalities, resulting in the Japanese Masonic fraternity being one of the most internationally diverse in the Masonic community.

It is this diversity that demonstrates Japan's status as a global hub for culture, diplomacy, and commerce. Brethren from a variety of nations who are united by their shared commitment to the principles of brotherhood are united within the lodges of the Grand Lodge of Japan by the universal language of Freemasonry.

Love, relief, and the truth. Community Engagement and Philanthropy

Grand Lodge of Japan's commitment to community support is a noteworthy aspect of its endeavours. The Masonic lodges consistently organise volunteer initiatives and philanthropic endeavours to support their local communities.

The programs that are frequently implemented include:

- Fundraising events for charitable organisations and humanitarian causes
- Community outreach initiatives that involves members and their families through volunteer efforts



- Assistance to local entities, including philanthropic foundations and social welfare organisations

Throughout these endeavours, Japanese Freemasons demonstrate that the principles of the Craft are not limited to the lodge and are demonstrated in substantial societal contributions.

Not only do these activities provide tangible assistance to communities, but they also fortify the bonds of camaraderie among individuals who are working together to achieve a common goal.

Establishing a Global Fellowship Center

Visiting Masons from a variety of jurisdictions are frequently accommodated by the lodges affiliated with the Grand Lodge of Japan, as Japan is a prominent international destination.

Military personnel, diplomats, business travellers, and tourists frequently attend lodge meetings.

The Masonic assemblies that were held during their visits to the country.

Freemasonry's international nature is fortified by the consistent presence of visiting brethren, which in turn enhances the lodges' vitality. Friendships that transcend national boundaries are fostered by members of the Grand Lodge of Japan through communal ceremonies, collaborative events, and fraternal visits.

It is through these exchanges that the global network of Freemasonry is strengthened and intercultural understanding is promoted.

Masonic Leadership and Engagement

As the national governing body for Craft Masonry, the Grand Lodge is responsible for the supervision of its constituent lodges and the organization of significant assemblies that serve to unify the fraternity. Lodge representatives convene to evaluate the jurisdiction's advancement, deliberate on programs and initiatives, and elect officers during the Annual Communication, which is one of the most significant events. This series of meetings fosters unity among the lodges and provides direction for the future of Freemasonry in Japan.

Educational discussions, fraternal assemblies, degree conferrals, and regular lodge meetings are essential components of the dynamic Masonic existence within the jurisdiction.

A Spectacular Expression of the Artistic Talent

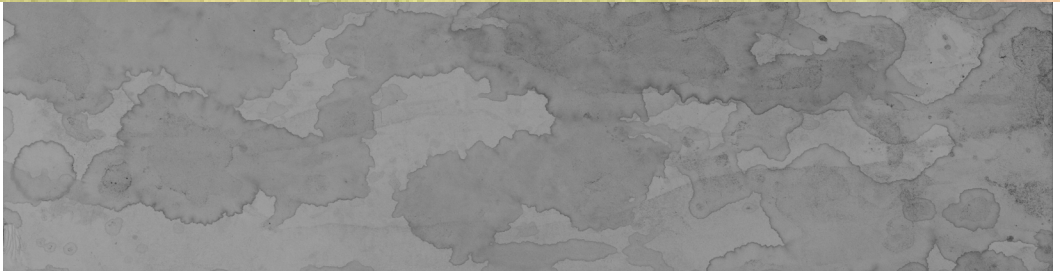
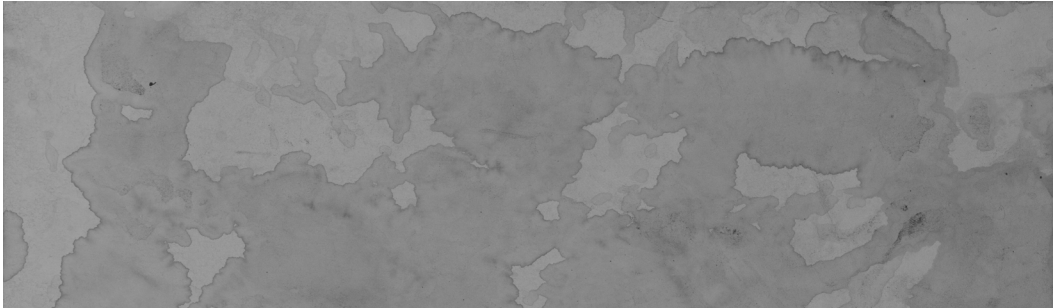
While maintaining their universal essence, Freemasonry in Japan serves as an illustration of the adaptability of Craft principles to a variety of cultures. While cultivating friendships that transcend continents, members of the Grand Lodge of Japan preserve age-old traditions in the temples and assembly halls. Philanthropic endeavours, international collaboration, and dedication to the ethical principles of Freemasonry are the means by which the Grand Lodge of Japan fortifies brotherhood and enhances the global Masonic community.

India's Grand Lodge: Illuminating the Path of Freemasonry

The Craft's persistent values of brotherhood, philanthropy, and ethical advancement are exemplified by Freemasonry in India. The Grand Lodge of India (GLI) is the central governing authority responsible for the regulation of Freemasonry within the nation. Since its inception in 1961, the Grand Lodge of India has guided the fraternity in the pursuit of unity among its members and has made substantial contributions to society through community service and charitable endeavours.

The narrative of Freemasonry in India began in the early eighteenth century, during the period of growing European influence in the region. The Premier Grand Lodge of England had jurisdiction over the inaugural Provincial Grand Lodge, which was established in Fort William, Calcutta, in 1729. This occurred after only twelve years since the world's first Grand Prix was established.





Lodge in London in 1717

By 1730, Lodge No. 72 was established at Fort William, where East India Company officers were conducting Masonic meetings. With the expansion of trade and colonial administration in the Indian subcontinent, the prevalence of Freemasonry also increased. Over one hundred lodges were operational throughout India during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

Under the supervision of the United Grand Lodge of England, the Grand Lodge of Scotland, and the Grand Lodge of Ireland, a multitude of these lodges were established. In India, these jurisdictions collectively made a substantial contribution to the establishment of Masonic life.

Some of the most notable figures in Indian Freemasonry

Eminent individuals from both British and Indian communities have been attracted to Freemasonry in India over the centuries. Herbert Kitchener, Charles Napier, and Horatio Nelson were among the military leaders who were prominently associated with the fraternity.

Indian intellectuals and leaders were also active members of Masonic lodges. Included in this group were the political leader C., the statesman Motilal Nehru, and the renowned spiritual thinker Swami Vivekananda (Narendra Nath Dutt). Former President of India Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, jurist Sir C. P. Ramaswami Iyer, and Rajagopalachari. The fraternity's appeal to individuals who are committed to intellectual growth, civic responsibility, and principled leadership was illustrated by their participation.

The establishment of the Grand Lodge of India

A reduction in lodge membership was the result of the repatriation of a significant number of British nationals following India's independence in 1947. The Indian Freemasons made an effort to establish a system that would preserve and improve the fraternity within the newly independent nation.

a national Grand Lodge.

November 24, 1961, marked the official establishment of the Grand Lodge of India at the Ashoka Hotel in New Delhi. Delegates from the Grand Lodges of England, Scotland, and Ireland attended the ceremony, which was attended by Masonic dignitaries from around the world.

The Nawab of Rampur, Syed Raza Ali Khan, was installed as the first Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of India during this historic assembly. Of the 277 lodges in India, 145 elected to affiliate with the newly formed Grand Lodge upon its inception.

Growth of Masonry and Regional Organization

To ensure the efficient administration of Freemasonry in a vast and diverse nation, the Grand Lodge of India established four Regional Grand Lodges:

- Headquartered in New Delhi, the Regional Grand Lodge of Northern India
- Headquartered in Kolkata, the Regional Grand Lodge of Eastern India
- Headquartered in Mumbai, the Regional Grand Lodge of Western India
- Headquartered in Chennai, the Regional Grand Lodge of Southern India

Masonic education and fellowship are promoted throughout the nation by these regional jurisdictions, which also supervise lodge operations and coordinate programs.

Currently, the Grand Lodge of India is responsible for more than 160 Royal Arch Chapters and approximately 470 lodges, in addition to Mark Lodges and Royal Ark Mariner Lodges. A membership of approximately 23,000 to 25,000 Freemasons is served by these Masonic bodies, which are situated in approximately 172 cities.

Historic Masonic Landmarks

In India, there are numerous Masonic structures that are historically significant. The Goshamal Baradari in Hyderabad, which was constructed in 1682 by Sultan Abul Hasan Qutb Shah, is one of them. In 1872, Mir Mahbub Ali Khan, the sixth Nizam of Hyderabad, donated the building to the fraternity, and it remains one of the oldest structures in the community.

used as a Masonic temple in India.

In Kollam (Quilon), the Freemasons' Crowther Masonic Hall continues to serve as an indispensable venue for lodge functions and Masonic assemblies.

Charitable and community service

The operations of the Grand Lodge of India are fundamentally characterised by philanthropy. Indian Freemasons participate in a variety of initiatives that advance social welfare.

disaster relief and community development.

The Golden Jubilee of the Grand Lodge is commemorated by the

Jyotirgamaya program, which was established by Grand Master Balaram Biswakumar. This program is one of the most significant initiatives. The project's objective was to improve the quality of life in fifty isolated villages that were previously without electricity.

After the Indian Ocean tsunami, the fraternity made a substantial contribution to the field of disaster rehabilitation. In Pallam village, Kanyakumari, the Grand Lodge constructed 74 residences for families that were affected by the disaster and organised a 10,000-square-foot community hall.

Examples of additional charitable endeavours include:

- a) Children in prisons are provided with educational support programs and classrooms.
- b) Humanitarian aid for those affected by natural disasters
- c) Medical outreach and humanitarian assistance
- d) Projects for community development are coordinated by local lodges.

An Ever-Expanding Brotherhood

Grand Lodge of India continues to maintain the timeless principles of the Craft, more than two centuries after Freemasonry first arrived in India. Through its lodges, regional grand lodges, and charitable initiatives, the fraternity promotes the personal and moral growth of its members, while also making a positive impact on society.

A respected partner among the family of Grand Lodges worldwide, the Grand Lodge of India remains an important pillar of Freemasonry in Asia and is guided by the enduring values of brotherly love, relief, and truth.

Through the Ages of Brotherhood: A Look Inside the Grand Lodge of South Carolina

Nestled in the heart of Lexington, South Carolina, the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free Masons of South Carolina is a living testament to centuries of tradition, fellowship, and community service. This Grand Lodge is not merely a building or an organization; it is a beacon of moral excellence and brotherhood, that guides men toward personal growth and civic responsibility, with roots that date back to 1735.

An Ornate Historical Tapestry

South Carolina's Masonic history commenced nearly three centuries ago with the chartering of Solomon's Lodge No. 1 in Charleston. Through a commitment to its fundamental principles of integrity, charity, and enlightenment, Freemasonry in the state experienced significant growth over the years. In the present day, the Grand Lodge administers hundreds of lodges throughout the state, each of which serves as a center for self-improvement and fellowship.

The Ancient Free Masons' enduring legacy is reflected in the Grand Lodge, which preserves the ethical teachings, traditions, and rituals that have guided generations. Throughout its historical archives, there are numerous accounts of Masons who played critical roles in the development of both South Carolina and the United States as a whole.

Mission Statement: Constructing Stronger Communities and Better Men

Fundamentally, Freemasonry is about more than ceremonial rituals; it is about the development of character. Three pillars are promoted by the Grand Lodge to its members:

Forming lifelong bonds across diverse backgrounds: Brotherly Fellowship.

Pursuit of knowledge, ethical behaviour, and self-improvement:
Moral and intellectual development.

Service to the Community: Participating in civic projects and
charitable initiatives that have a tangible impact.

Men are equipped to lead with integrity and live with purpose
through educational programs and mentorship opportunities
provided by the Grand Lodge.

Leadership and Vision

Under the direction of the Grand Master, the Grand Lodge
prioritises transparency, unity, and outreach operations.
Collectively, representatives from each lodge participate in annual
communications, which promote collaboration and disseminate the
most recent initiatives. In addition, the leadership team guarantees
that lodges have access to the necessary resources to thrive in
the 21st century, including digital communications and educational
workshops.

Programs and Outreach

No, the Grand Lodge is not isolated. Living evidence of Freemasonry's
guiding principle: relief of those in need—its lodges participate in
public service, charitable donations, and community events. South
Carolina Masons are active contributors to their communities,
whether it be through scholarship programs, local philanthropy, or
assisting veterans.

Members also enjoy a comprehensive network of educational
materials, newsletters, and events that are intended to cultivate
camaraderie and enhance their understanding of Masonic history
and philosophy.

An enduring legacy

Three centuries later, the Grand Lodge of South Carolina continues to be a dynamic hub of enlightenment and fraternity. Freemasonry remains as pertinent today as it was in the 18th century, as its members demonstrate by honouring tradition and embracing contemporary challenges. The Grand Lodge provides a history to respect and a future to shape for those who are seeking brotherhood, purpose, and a path toward personal and community enhancement.

Explore more: Visit scgrandlodgeafm.org to learn about the lodges, programs, and opportunities to engage with South Carolina Freemasonry.



FREEMASONRY IN ACTION: CREATING A BETTER NOVA SCOTIA BROTHERHOOD WITH A PURPOSE

Nova Scotia's Freemasons have been a secretive yet influential force for good for an extended period. Throughout the province, lodges are not merely gathering places for ritual and fellowship; they are also centers of charitable activity, education, and community support, impacting thousands of lives annually.

“Our mission is to provide service.” Local Lodge Spokesperson: “Freemasonry imparts values; however, it is through our actions, which include our support of local organisations, families, and children, that these values are truly realised.”

“Sidebar: Did You Know?”.

In Nova Scotia, there are more than 40 active Masonic lodges that provide services to communities throughout the province.

Continuing centuries-old traditions, the Grand Lodge was established in 1860.

Making a Difference in Education and Health

Supporting healthcare and education has been a fundamental principle of Nova Scotia Freemasonry.

Students who are experiencing learning difficulties, such as dyslexia, are assisted by donations to the Scottish Rite Learning Centre for Children.

Contribution of specialised “cuddle beds” to enhance patient comfort: Hospital Support service.

Lockeport Elementary School Playground: \$25,000 in funding to facilitate safer and more engaging recreational activities.

Families are guaranteed access to essential meals through seasonal assistance from food banks.

TRADITION MEETS CHARITY: ANNUAL EVENTS

Fun, fellowship, and fundraising are frequently integrated into Masonic events:

Broom & Gavel Bonspiel: Annual curling tournament that raises funds for Feed Nova Scotia, organised by John Albro Lodge No. 122.

The Provincial Fundraising Programs are a collaborative effort among the lodges to increase the support for charities throughout Nova Scotia.

“These types of events demonstrate that helping others can be both enjoyable and beneficial.”

FRATERNAL ENGAGEMENT AND LIFE-LONG LEARNING

Lodges are more than just places of service; they also foster personal development and lifelong friendships.

Masonic Mentorship Programs: New members are guided by seasoned Masons.

Leadership, ethics, and philanthropy are the subjects of workshops and lectures.

Public Engagement: Including community outreach, lectures, and social events.

Sidebar: “Travelling Through a Lodge”

The meetings are held on a monthly or bi-monthly basis.

History, ethics, and morality are imparted through ceremonies and rituals.

The members are actively involved in the planning of community initiatives and charitable contributions.

SHARING STORIES: THE NOVA SCOTIA FREEMASON

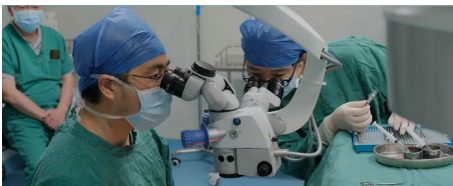
The quarterly publication The Nova Scotia Freemason highlights the community impact, lodge activities, and member accomplishments. The values of Freemasonry are exemplified by Freemasons in Nova Scotia daily in each issue.

LONG-LASTING SERVICE HISTORY

The Nova Scotia Freemasons have a tangible impact on their communities, from supporting hospitals to playgrounds. These individuals embody the principle of service, fellowship, and charity through their dedication to charity.

“Real greatness is determined by one’s ability to assist others.”

Find out more at www.nsmasons.ca.



The Royal Arch Masons of NS and PEI Glaucoma Fund

The Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia with Prince Edward Island proudly supports Glaucoma research at the Eye Care Center, Queen Elizabeth II Health Science Center.

The Ernie Wilkes Scholarship Fund

This Ernie Wilkes Scholarship Fund aims to support four exceptional graduating high school seniors from local HRM high schools. Our goal is to provide financial assistance to deserving students who have demonstrated academic excellence, leadership skills, and community involvement. We believe that investing in education is crucial for the future success of our community, and we are proud to support this cause.



Inside the Vibrant Life of the Grand Lodge of Virginia: Brotherhood in Action

Situated in Richmond, Virginia, the Grand Lodge of Virginia has long been a symbol of personal development, community service, and fraternal fellowship. It is acknowledged as the oldest continuously operating independent Masonic Grand Lodge in the United States, having been established in 1778. This legacy has been built over the course of more than two centuries.

Mission That Is Significant

At the core of the Grand Lodge's operations is a straightforward yet impactful objective: to foster and maintain a lifestyle that encourages the Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God, while simultaneously fostering the expansion and prosperity of Masonic Lodges throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Here, Freemasonry is founded on three fundamental principles: Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. In order to fortify their character, serve their communities, and cultivate lifelong relationships with their Brothers, these principles serve as a guide for members.

Champions of Charity and Community

No, the Grand Lodge is not merely a ceremonial institution; it is a practical force for good in the towns and cities of Virginia.

The Freemasons of Virginia are proud to maintain a long-standing tradition of charitable giving. They raise funds and volunteer time to assist those in need through a variety of initiatives. Scholarship Program is one of their most notable features, as it offers financial assistance to students who are dedicated to academic excellence.

Virginia Masons organise and participate in blood drives statewide

as part of the Masonic Community Blood Program, which is an extraordinary act of service. Exemplifying the fraternity's dedication to community care and relief, this initiative guarantees that essential blood products are accessible to hospitals and patients.

Unifying and Motivating Events

The social calendar of the Grand Lodge is brimming with events that serve to unite Masons and commemorate their heritage:

Each year, the Grand Annual Communication is a cornerstone event that brings together hundreds of Brothers for a combination of business, fellowship, and ceremonies. Last November 2025, the 247th annual session was held, and it featured presentations on the impact of Masonry, award presentations, and officer elections.

Ian McLaurin Shiply, Jr. A cherished spring tradition, the Memorial Golf Tournament is open to both members and supporters, fostering a sense of camaraderie through friendly competition and fundraising.

This seasonal publication, the Virginia Masonic Herald, is dedicated to the preservation and dissemination of the fraternity's rich culture by featuring historical features, lodge accomplishments, and stories of Masonic life.

Education and lifelong development

True to its mission, the Grand Lodge allocates substantial resources to its members' personal growth:

The Virginia Masonic Academy is a comprehensive training program that provides leadership development opportunities and correspondence courses. In order to equip Masons to effectively serve in leadership roles both within and outside the lodge, the academy integrates educational resources with local mentoring.

A contemporary touchstone for the fraternity, the Grand View Member Portal is a digital hub that enables members to effortlessly connect, locate events, pay dues, access resources, and remain informed about statewide activities.

Celebrating a Legacy: Looking Forward

Masons, both new and old, are experiencing an almost tangible thrill as the Lodge approaches its 250th anniversary. To commemorate this extraordinary milestone, there are plans for community outreach projects, historical tours such as The Founders' Footsteps Commemoration Tour, and special commemorations.

Why It Is Important

Today, the Grand Lodge of Virginia continues a mission that is deeply rooted in centuries-old tradition. This mission is to foster the development of better men, provide support to families and communities, and provide a framework for a life that is meaningful and purposeful. Beyond the confines of its lodges, Virginia Freemasonry's influence extends through personal development, fellowship, or charity.



Illuminating Brotherhood: Engaging Activities at the Grand Lodge of New Jersey

The Grand Lodge of New Jersey, which is at the hub of Masonic life in the Garden State, is dedicated to the promotion of fellowship, education, and community engagement. This is achieved through a variety of inspiring activities and initiatives that are intended to fortify the bonds of brotherhood and benefit both members and the broader community.

A Legacy of Learning: Masonic Education and Development

In New Jersey, Masonic life is fundamentally centred around education. Brethren in the Grand Lodge are afforded substantial teaching opportunities:

A premier educational program that is designed to enhance the comprehension of symbolic Masonry, ritual protocol, and constitutional law among Master Masons is the Society of King Solomon. Structured across numerous modules, this initiative presents participants with the opportunity to master fundamental principles and receive recognition for their commitment.

An online educational resource that provides essays and tools to facilitate personal and intellectual development (New Jersey Masonic University). Both experienced Masons and novices who are interested in the Craft's timeless teachings, history, and leadership, can benefit from this university-style platform.

This educational endeavour is indicative of a dedication to lifelong learning, rather than merely ceremony, which guarantees that each Brother has the opportunity to pursue Masonry with greater clarity at his own pace.

Cultural Enhancement – The Museum of Masonic Culture

Tucked away within the historic Trenton Masonic Temple is a vibrant testament to Masonic heritage: The Museum of Masonic Culture. A remarkable collection of artefacts, documents, and memorabilia that commemorate the deep roots of Freemasonry in New Jersey and around the world is on display at this institution.

There are numerous captivating exhibits that visitors may encounter, such as:

A collection of letters and petitions from the earlier period of American history,

A treasure trove of more than 60 international Masonic aprons, various Masonic appendant bodies' regalia,

There are historical documents that are associated with significant figures in the history of the Craft.

The museum is accessible to both members and non-members and is open during significant Masonic events and by appointment. It provides a more profound understanding of Masonic culture and legacy.

Using Digital Outreach to Share Our Story with the World

The Fraternal Focus video initiative was initiated by the Grand Lodge in recognition of the significance of broad outreach in the digital era. This project, which is being presented by the Digital Doorway Subcommittee of the Membership Committee, emphasises the essence and character of Freemasonry by means of brief videos that serve to inform, motivate, and unify.

From historical explorations to personal reflections from Brothers across the state, this initiative encourages viewers — both within

the Craft and beyond — to engage with the fundamental values of brotherly love, relief, and truth.

Community Events and Notable Gatherings

Members, families, and community partners are frequently united by the Grand Lodge’s calendar of memorable events. Among them is the NJ John Skene Masonic Conference, a program that attracts Brothers from all over the jurisdiction by combining charitable engagement, learning, and fellowship.

Charity events, blood drives, tournaments, and social fundraisers are among the other activities that are associated with the Lodge’s lively calendar. These activities are indicative of the fraternity’s dedication to community involvement and service activities.

Traditions of Purpose and Connection

From cultural institutions and digital storytelling to immersive educational programs, the Grand Lodge of New Jersey exemplifies the evolution of a historic fraternity with purpose and spirit. While promoting meaningful connections and opportunities for growth in the present day, its activities also pay tribute to the Craft’s legacy.

Through study, service, or celebration, the Grand Lodge maintains a proud tradition of illuminating the way forward, one Brother, one family, and one community at a time.

The preservation of Masonic heritage, educational scholarships, and community relief projects are all actively supported by New Jersey Freemasonry.



Within the Regular Grand Lodge of Italy: Global Engagement, Scholarship, and Tradition

Since its inception, the Regular Grand Lodge of Italy (GLRI) has become a dynamic hub of Masonic culture, tradition, and international dialogue, successfully balancing ritual life, research, and public-facing intellectual engagement.

An Interwoven Tapestry of Lodge and Regional Activities

GLRI coordinates the activities of numerous local lodges (Logge) that are organised into Regional Grand Lodges throughout Italy. For instance, in Tuscany, Lombardy, Sicily, and Lazio, each lodge hosts regular meetings and promotes Masonic fellowship within its community.

By convening on a monthly or bi-monthly basis, these lodges—whose names include Tommaso Crudeli in Arezzo, Europa in Milan, and Arcadia in Messina—allow members to investigate the symbolic, ethical, and fraternal aspects of their Craft in close proximity to their residences.

Thought Leadership and Public Scholarship

The GLRI's publishing culture is characterised by the exploration of Masonic philosophy, history, and spiritual interpretation in periodic issues of *De Hominis Dignitate* and other magazines. Freemasonry's intellectual origins, esoteric traditions, and contemporary discourse are frequently the subjects of essays in these publications.

Among these voices, Grand Master Fabio Venzi is particularly prominent. His speeches and writings, which range from lectures on symbolic interpretation to reflections on tradition and modernity,

are frequently disseminated to a broader audience through online platforms and archives.

In a recent instance, the GLRI publicised the annual meeting of the Supreme Grand Chapter, where the Irish Royal Arch ritual was introduced, as seen on the lodge site. This reflects both internal ritual evolution and cross-jurisdictional exchange.

Connecting Global Masonic Relations and Tradition

However, the GLRI's activities are not restricted to Italy. It maintains mutual recognition with regular Grand Lodges on all continents and involves its leaders in European and global Masonic conferences.

The United Grand Lodge of England has acknowledged this international engagement, which places the GLRI within a broader network of traditional Masonic obedience, thereby balancing national identity with global fraternity.

Cultural and Educational Outreach

In addition to lodge meetings, the Library and Museum projects of the GLRI are designed to preserve and present the history and symbolism of Freemasonry to both members and the general public. Through its digital media offerings, which include visual archives and downloadable lectures, these resources are made more accessible to a broader audience.

The GLRI's dedication to education and tradition is further affirmed by its promotion of these resources, which also contributes to a more comprehensive cultural understanding of Freemasonry's impact on European intellectual history.

Italian Freemasonry promotes the preservation of cultural heritage, charitable service, and philosophical study by frequently organising educational forums and lectures that delve into the intellectual traditions of the Craft.



Alabama's Grand Lodge: Community Engagement and Activities

Freemasonry in the state of Alabama, United States, is regulated by the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Alabama. It has facilitated the growth of Masonic lodges throughout the state for more than two centuries, having been established in Cahawba on June 11, 1821. Today, the jurisdiction is responsible for the supervision of a multitude of subordinate lodges and thousands of members who collaborate to advance the principles of brotherhood, charity, and moral development.

Through its programs and the activities of its lodges, the Grand Lodge continues to advance Freemasonry's enduring mission: "making good men better" by promoting friendship, integrity, and service to society.

Leadership and Fraternal Governance

Leadership and administrative guidance are provided by the Grand Lodge to the numerous Masonic lodges in Alabama. The jurisdiction is directed by its officers to ensure that uniform ritual practices are maintained, lodge governance is strengthened, and members' growth and development are supported.

In an effort to accomplish these objectives, the Grand Lodge implements leadership workshops and communication programs for lodge officers, with an emphasis on Secretaries, Wardens, and Masters. These programs ensure that lodges continue to function as effective centers of fraternity, education, and service in their respective communities.

In addition, the Grand Lodge conducts routine reviews and updates of the Alabama Masonic Code to guarantee that the fraternity remains pertinent and responsive to the requirements of contemporary society.

Charity and Community Service

At the core of the Grand Lodge of Alabama's operations is charitable outreach. Throughout the state, lodges are involved in programs that offer support to local communities, families, and individuals.

The fraternity has historically provided support to charitable institutions, including the Alabama Masonic Home, which was established in 1867 to provide care for the widows and orphans of Masons. Today, this dedication to philanthropy is exemplified by the numerous community service initiatives that are organised by individual lodges and Masonic bodies.

In an effort to enhance the welfare of their communities, local lodges frequently organise charitable donations, volunteer programs, and fundraising events. These initiatives bolster the Masonic principles of civic responsibility, generosity, and compassion.

Educational and leadership programs

A significant component of the Grand Lodge's mission is education. Instruction on leadership skills, Masonic history, and ritual proficiency is provided by the organization through committees on education and work.

Members are encouraged to reinforce the fraternity's bonds and advance the principles of Masonry in their communities through initiatives like the "Friend to Friend" initiative. These initiatives also contribute to the fraternity's principles and contributions, as well as enhanced public awareness and membership growth.

Members are not the only ones who participate in educational initiatives; numerous lodges organise public events, lectures, and discussions to encourage civic engagement and ethical values.

Provision of assistance to Masonic youth organisations

Youth organisations associated with the Masonic family are actively supported by the Grand Lodge of Alabama. Youth are assisted by these organisations in the cultivation of leadership, moral character, and community awareness.

Among the youth organisations that are affiliated with Alabama Masonry are:

- Order of De Molay
- International Order of Rainbow for Girls

Different Masonic organisations that prioritise family and youth

The Grand Lodge guarantees that the principles of Freemasonry are transmitted to future generations by means of mentorship, scholarship programs, and youth leadership initiatives...

Association with Masonic Organisations That Are Independent

In addition, Freemasonry in Alabama collaborates with numerous appendant organisations, such as the Scottish Rite and York Rite. Through charitable initiatives, educational programs, and additional degrees, these organisations advance the principles of Craft Masonry.

The Scottish Rite in Alabama, for instance, encourages community engagement and provides support for charitable causes, including educational programs and assistance for children with learning disabilities.

Cooperation of this nature fortifies the Masonic family as a whole and enhances the influence of its educational and philanthropic endeavours throughout the state.

Consolidating Fraternal Unity

The maintenance of harmony and cooperation among the Masonic fraternity's various branches is another critical function of the Grand Lodge. Subordinate lodges and affiliated Masonic bodies are encouraged by the Grand Lodge to communicate and collaborate in order to achieve common objectives in the areas of education, community service, and charity.

Regular Grand Lodge communications and meetings offer members the chance to exchange ideas, review programs, and plan future initiatives that will benefit both the fraternity and the communities it serves.

The Preservation of the Service Tradition

Freemasonry in Alabama has been guided by the Grand Lodge of Alabama for more than two centuries. Through community engagement, charitable work, youth programs, and leadership development, it maintains the timeless principles of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth.

The fraternity's commitment to the personal development of its members and the well-being of the communities in which they reside is illustrated by these activities, which serve as evidence of its ongoing and constructive involvement in society.



Grand Lodge of Alabama



Grand Lodge of Illinois (1822)

Charity, education, and the Living Tradition of Freemasonry

One of the most historic and influential Masonic jurisdictions in the United States is the Grand Lodge of Illinois, which was established in 1822. The enduring principles of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth have been upheld by Illinois Freemasons for over two centuries, guiding members toward personal growth and extending meaningful service to their communities.

The Illinois Masonry is a dynamic network of brethren who are committed to philanthropy, moral development, and fellowship, with hundreds of Lodges located throughout the state. It is widely acknowledged that the jurisdiction has robust charitable foundations that support children's welfare, education, and disaster relief efforts, thereby illustrating how the principles of Freemasonry can be translated into practical service to society.

Foundations of Freemasonry in Illinois

The early years of American expansion into the Midwest saw the arrival of Freemasonry in Illinois. An early Lodge was established in 1805 in Kaskaskia, which was the capital of the Illinois Territory at the time. As settlements expanded and communities thrived, Freemasonry expanded in tandem, imparting its principles of civic responsibility, brotherhood, and morality.

In 1822, the Grand Lodge of Illinois was formally established by representatives from numerous Lodges. Shadrach Bond was the inaugural Grand Master, and he also simultaneously served as the first governor of Illinois. The close connection between Freemasonry and the civic development of the young state was reflected in his leadership.

Similar to numerous Masonic jurisdictions in the United States, Illinois Freemasonry encountered obstacles during the Anti-Masonic movement of the 1820s and 1830s. In spite of these challenges, the fraternity persevered and ultimately developed strength. One of the most active and respected Masonic bodies in the nation by the late nineteenth century was the Grand Lodge.

Strong Dedication to Charitable Causes

In Illinois Freemasonry, charity continues to be the center. Throughout the state, the Grand Lodge of Illinois continues to offer support to families, schools, and communities through a diverse array of programs and initiatives.

The Illinois Masonic Student Assistance Program

One of the jurisdiction's most influential initiatives is the Illinois Masonic Student Assistance Program (IMSAP). In this program, educators and school staff are instructed to identify early warning signs in students who may be experiencing emotional or social difficulties. The IMSAP program assists young individuals in overcoming obstacles and remaining involved in their education by means of early intervention and mentorship.

The Illinois Masonic Children's Assistance Program

The primary objective of the Illinois Masonic Children's Assistance Program (IMCAP) is to offer assistance to families and children who are experiencing economic hardship or social challenges. Working in close collaboration with local Lodges, the program guarantees that the most vulnerable individuals receive the necessary support.

Masonic Academic Bowl of Illinois

the Illinois Masonic Academic Bowl, a statewide competition that honours the academic achievements of high school students, is another significant educational initiative. While providing scholarships and recognition to exceptional participants, the event

fosters academic achievement, intellectual curiosity, and teamwork.

The Masonic Family Identification Program

In addition, Illinois Freemasons are involved in the Masonic Family Identification Program, which offers families child identification kits that can be used to assist authorities in the event of an emergency. This initiative is indicative of the fraternity's dedication to the safety of children and the preservation of public safety.

Looking after the Families of Masons

The Grand Lodge of Illinois provides support to its own members through Illinois Masonic Outreach Services in addition to its public charitable activities. When necessary, this program provides financial assistance, guidance, and counselling to Masons, widows, and families who are experiencing challenging circumstances.

These initiatives exemplify the genuine spirit of fraternity, which is to guarantee that no member of the Masonic family is not left without assistance.

The community's Freemasonry

Throughout Illinois, local Lodges are actively involved in their communities by participating in disaster relief efforts, fundraising events, scholarship programs, and volunteer work. Freemasons are able to exhibit the practical application of the values that are taught within the Lodge through these activities.

A space is also provided by Freemasonry for members to pursue lifelong learning, leadership development, and self-improvement. Thru ritual, symbolism, and fellowship, the fraternity motivates men to develop civic responsibility, compassion, and integrity.

MAINBOARD

A list of notable Illinois Freemasons

A number of notable figures in American history were members of Illinois Masonic Lodges, particularly:

- Abraham Lincoln – Despite not being initiated, he maintained strong relationships with Illinois Masons and frequently engaged with Lodge leaders.
- Stephen A. Douglas – A prominent U.S. Senator and Mason who played a significant role in national politics during the mid-19th century.
- Oscar F. Nelson – A distinguished Illinois Mason who served as Grand Master and later as Grand Secretary for many years, significantly influencing the jurisdiction's development.

MAINBOARD

The Most Important Charitable Initiatives

The Grand Lodge of Illinois is currently supporting a variety of philanthropic initiatives, such as:

- Masonic Family Identification Program
- Illinois Masonic Student Assistance Program
- Illinois Masonic Children's Assistance Program
- Illinois Masonic Academic Bowl
- Illinois Masonic Outreach Services

Collectively, these initiatives reflect the fraternity's unwavering dedication to community welfare, family support, and education.



Grand Lodge of Florida: Two Centuries of Brotherhood and Service 1830 founding | Serving communities throughout the Sunshine State

Florida Freemasons have dedicated nearly two centuries to the integration of community service, charitable initiatives, and youth development with fellowship. The Masonic commitment to “Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth” is exemplified by the Grand Lodge of Florida, which provides disaster relief and mentors tomorrow’s leaders.

The establishment of a historical foundation

The Grand Lodge of Florida was founded in 1830, bringing together lodges in Marianna, Quincy, and Tallahassee. Throughout the years, it has expanded to supervise nearly 200 lodges throughout the state, cultivating a fraternity that is committed to civic responsibility, philanthropy, and moral development.

Charitable Outreach and Community Service

The Florida Freemasons are actively involved in community service programs, such as:

- Aid for the homeless and food drives
- Funds donated to charitable organisations and local communities
- Assistance during hurricanes and emergencies when disaster strikes

Sidebar: “Florida lodges donate thousands of volunteer hours annually, demonstrating the Masonic dedication to assisting their neighbours in need.”

Looking after the Families of Masons

Lifelong care is provided to elderly Masons, their wives, and widows by the Masonic Home of Florida. The following programs are included:

- a. Emergency financial support
- b. Providing assistance to widows and their families
- c. Healthcare and residential care
- d. Assistance to Veterans and Members

Veterans and active members who are experiencing hardship are also supported by Florida lodges through programs. These initiatives encompass counselling, financial assistance, and community reintegration initiatives.

Developmental and Leadership Programs for Young People

The Grand Lodge invests in the development of future leaders through Masonic youth organisations:

- International DeMolay
- Job’s Daughters International
- An International Order of the Rainbow for Girls

These programs offer mentorship, leadership skills, and scholarship opportunities.

Sidebar: “Masonic youth programs prioritise civic engagement, character, and responsibility, thereby equipping the youth to make a positive impact on their communities.”

Support for Public Health and Education

The Florida Masons support education by providing scholarships and outreach programs. Medical research, such as cardiovascular studies and public health initiatives, is also supported by them.

The Formation of a Lodge Network

Lodges in Florida serve as community centers, providing:

- a. Charitable fundraising events and social dinners
- b. Educational events and Masonic instruction
- c. Public outreach and civic engagement

Carrying on a Tradition of Service

For nearly 200 years, the Grand Lodge of Florida has exemplified the fundamental principle of Freemasonry: service to humanity. The timeless values of the Craft are maintained by Florida Masons through their involvement in community initiatives, mentoring youth, aiding veterans, and supporting families.



Building Stronger Communities, Building Better Men: The Grand Lodge of Washington's Work (1858–Present)

Grand Lodge of Washington has been a pillar of civic responsibility, fraternal life, and moral development in the Pacific Northwest since its establishment in 1858, when Washington was still a part of the Oregon Territory.

Washington Freemasonry is not merely a historical institution; it still thrives today as a result of a diverse array of activities that are focused on community engagement, leadership, and service.

An Tradition With a Purpose

Masonic lodges throughout the state were governed by the Grand Lodge of Washington, which also served to advance the timeless principles of Freemasonry—namely, brotherhood, charity, and personal development.

As early as its inception, the organization has drawn men who are dedicated to civic responsibility and self-improvement. The fraternity's historic influence in public life was illustrated by the fact that early Washington leaders, such as the state's first governor and auditor, were Freemasons.

Shaping Men of Character: Leadership Development

Leadership development is a fundamental element of the Washington Freemasons' activities. Members are encouraged to cultivate the following through mentorship, structured programs, and lodge participation:

- Decision-making that is ethical
- Public accountability
- Organisational leadership abilities

Additionally, these initiatives are intended to equip members with the necessary skills to effectively serve their communities, in addition to fostering personal development.

This program embodies Freemasonry's philosophy of "making good men better," which emphasises the importance of character as the foundation of leadership.

Community Service and Public Engagement

The Masonic activity in Washington is fundamentally rooted in service. Numerous public service initiatives are organised and participated in by lodges throughout the state, such as:

- Charitable drives and fundraising initiatives
- Educational assistance and scholarships
- Public school programs and literacy campaigns
- Assistance for families and individuals in need

The Freemasons of Washington are characterised as "champions of public education" who are actively involved in community welfare projects and schools.

Their charitable arm, Washington Masonic Charities, continues to broaden this mission by implementing outreach programs and organised giving, including Masons Care, which offers assistance to individuals in need.

Grassroots Impact and Volunteerism

Additionally, local lodges function as centers of volunteerism, in addition to their formal programs. Time and effort are consistently contributed by members to:

Projects that enhance the community
Participation in civic activities and local events
Relief initiatives during periods of adversity

The deep connection between Freemasonry and everyday community life is guaranteed by this grassroots engagement, which is not limited to institutional charity.

A Lifelong Fellowship and Brotherhood

A strong sense of brotherhood that is fostered within the fraternity is equally significant to service and leadership. Lodges offer an area for:

- Fostering mutual support and mentorship
- Fellowship and social interaction
- A shared dedication to ethical principles

Creating a cycle of support and positive influence, this network fortifies both the communities it serves and the individual members.

An Eternal Legacy

The Grand Lodge of Washington, which has over 150 lodges throughout the state and a history of over a century and a half, perseveres in its evolution while remaining committed to its original principles.

Its ongoing activities—leadership development, charitable work, and community engagement—evidence that Freemasonry is not merely a tradition of the past, but a living force for good in the present.

Final Thoughts

The Grand Lodge of Washington is a prime example of how a fraternal organization can influence both an individual and society, from its inception in 1858 to its contemporary initiatives. The Washington Freemasons are dedicated to a straightforward yet impactful mission, which they pursue through volunteerism, public service, and leadership training:

in order to enhance their own lives and, in turn, enhance the world in which they live.



Creating Brotherhood in the Silver State: The Grand Lodge of Nevada (1865)

In the rugged mining camps and frontier towns of the American West, where fortunes were carved from silver veins and communities rose almost overnight, a much more quiet but equally enduring institution was forming. A foundation of fraternity, morality, and civic responsibility was established by the Grand Lodge of Nevada in 1865, which continues to influence communities throughout the state.

A Frontier Beginning

Nevada's pioneers had already discovered fertile ground for Freemasonry prior to its formal establishment as a state. Early lodges were subject to the jurisdiction of California; however, the desire for independence in Nevada increased as the state's population expanded. In Virginia City in January 1865, delegates from numerous lodges convened to formally establish the Grand Lodge of Nevada.

This moment was not merely a moment of administrative autonomy; it also represented the emergence of a unified Masonic identity that was founded on the principles of brotherly love, relief, and truth, which continue to serve as a guiding light for all Nevada Masons.

Establishing a Community Beyond the Lodge

Since its inception, the Grand Lodge of Nevada has expanded its influence beyond ceremonial halls. Lodges in Nevada have consistently been instrumental in the development of communities by providing service and philanthropy.

Masons are actively active in support of the following throughout the state:

Honouring those who have served the nation, veterans' programs
charitable fundraising initiatives that benefit local causes and
families in need

Helping to cultivate leadership and learning in the younger
generation through educational outreach

A long-standing dedication to the enhancement of society—one of
the fundamental principles of Freemasonry—is reflected in these
endeavours.

Brotherhood in Action

Although it is deeply rooted in tradition, the Grand Lodge of Nevada is anything but static. Its lodges continues to function as vibrant centers of leadership development and fellowship. Members convene not only to promote personal development, ethical leadership, and lifelong relationships, but also to preserve ritual and heritage.

The organization's relevance in a world that is rapidly changing is guaranteed by modern Masonic activities in Nevada, which include leadership training, public events, and collaborative community projects.

An Enduring Legacy

The Grand Lodge of Nevada has evolved simultaneously with the state it serves, from the silver boomtowns of the 19th century to the dynamic cities of today. Despite the fact that the mining camps that once fuelled its early growth have dissipated, the values that its founders implemented continue to resonate.

Its narrative is one of fortitude—of men who, in the face of uncertainty and expansion, elected to construct not only towns but also a foundation for ethical living and community service.

After more than 150 years, the Grand Lodge of Nevada continues to serve as a testament to the enduring influence of fraternity, quietly influencing lives, fortifying communities, and perpetuating a custom that originated in the heart of the American frontier.



Building Brotherhood Through Education, Charity, and Community Engagement: The Grand Lodge of Arizona (1866)

In the vast landscapes of the American Southwest, the Grand Lodge of Arizona is a pillar of Freemasonry, deeply rooted in tradition and actively involved in contemporary society. Since its inception in the 19th century, Arizona Freemasonry has developed into a dynamic network of lodges that are dedicated to personal growth, charitable outreach, and meaningful public relationships.

In the present day, the Grand Lodge continues to direct a fraternity that is committed to the enhancement of the communities it serves, in addition to its internal growth, with over 60 lodges operating state-wide.

Advancement of Masonic Education

A robust emphasis on education is at the core of Arizona Freemasonry. Instructional meetings, lectures, and ritual studies are conducted by lodges on a regular basis to enhance the comprehension of Masonic philosophy and values among members.

The following are frequently incorporated into educational programs:

An examination of the moral teachings and symbolism of Masonry
The development of leadership through lodge participation
libraries and research lodges that preserve Masonic history

There are numerous lodges, including those in Phoenix and Peoria, that organise scheduled education nights and discussions to guarantee that Masonic knowledge is consistently transmitted from one generation to the next.

This commitment is indicative of a more extensive objective: to foster the development of contemplative, well-informed individuals who integrate Masonic principles into their daily lives.

Effects of Charity on the Community

A distinguishing characteristic of Freemasonry in Arizona is its emphasis on charity. Although the fraternity is not a charitable organization in its own right, it is actively engaged in benevolence through cooperative endeavours at both the lodge and Grand Lodge levels.

Masons in Arizona are involved in the following activities:

- Participation in fundraising initiatives for charitable organisations in the community
- Providing assistance to families in need

Programmes for youth development and scholarships
Assistance with community enhancement initiatives

Compassion and responsibility toward others are emphasised in these endeavours, which are consistent with the fundamental Masonic principle of “relief.” The dedication of lodges to making a tangible impact on their communities is consistently demonstrated throughout Arizona.

Public Engagement and Outreach

In addition, the Grand Lodge of Arizona emphasises public engagement and visibility. AZ Masons cultivate connections that extend beyond their membership by means of community events, youth programs like DeMolay and Job’s Daughters, and open houses.

Included in public-facing initiatives are:

- Outreach educational initiatives regarding Freemasonry
- Civil and cultural events participation
- The preservation of historic Masonic buildings and museums
- Programs for youth leadership and mentorship

These activities promote greater community involvement and comprehension while demystifying Freemasonry.

Tradition that is Still Active

In Arizona, Freemasonry is governed by timeless principles, including brotherly love, relief, and truth, while also accommodating the demands of a shifting world. Members of local lodges convene not only for ritual and tradition, but also for shared purpose and service, as they serve as centers of fellowship.

The Grand Lodge of Arizona upholds its legacy as a force for personal growth and community betterment by engaging in charitable outreach, public engagement, and educational advancement.

In Arizona, Freemasonry is not merely a tradition; it is a proactive dedication to the development of stronger communities and better men.



A Legacy of Social Uplift, Service, and Leadership: Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Washington (1870)

As early as 1870, the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Washington was established in the Pacific Northwest, founded on the enduring principles of brotherhood, justice, and equality. In Washington, Prince Hall Freemasonry emerged during a transformative period in American history and became a critical institution for African American leadership, community organization, and social progress.

Early Foundations and Development

The Prince Hall Masons began to arrive in Washington State in the late 19th century, primarily from established jurisdictions such as Iowa, Missouri, and Illinois. These early brethren not only brought with them the traditions of Freemasonry but also a vision of empowerment and unity. By the 1890s and early 1900s, numerous lodges had been established throughout the region, establishing the foundation for a unified Grand Lodge structure.

The establishment of a governing body in Seattle in 1903 was the result of the meetings of delegates from various lodges, which resulted in the formation of a Grand Lodge that served Washington and Oregon. This was a substantial contribution to the region's autonomy, organization, and the reinforcement of Masonic influence.

An Essential Component of Community Leadership

Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Washington has been a beacon of leadership within the African American community since its inception. In an era characterized by racial segregation and restricted opportunities, the fraternity offered a structured environment in which men could cultivate leadership abilities, participate in civic affairs, and advocate for equality.

Integrity, service, and excellence—the Lodge’s guiding principles—continue to influence its mission to cultivate responsible leadership and unity among its members.. Through moral instruction and mentorship, it has consistently generated leaders who make significant contributions to their communities.

Charitable giving and social enhancement

The fundamental principle of Prince Hall Freemasonry is a profound dedication to the advancement of society. Over the years, the Grand Lodge has been actively engaged in charitable initiatives that are designed to enhance the social and economic well-being of underprivileged communities. Among these endeavours are partnerships that address broader societal challenges, community outreach programs, and support for families in need.

Freemasonry is not only a personal journey of enlightenment but also a collective responsibility to uplift humanity, as such initiatives reflect a foundational belief.

Promoting Education Through Scholarships

The Grand Lodge has maintained education as a fundamental component of its mission. Scholarship programs and educational outreach have been actively supported by the organization, which acknowledges the transformative power of learning. Many of these initiatives are designed to enable young individuals, particularly those from marginalised communities, to pursue personal development and higher education.

This emphasis on education is consistent with the greater legacy of Prince Hall, who advocated for learning as a means of achieving freedom and progress.

Acknowledgement and Brotherhood

Full recognition within mainstream Freemasonry was not achieved without difficulties. The Masonic family's progress and unity were symbolised by the formal acknowledgement of mutual recognition with other Grand Lodges in 1990, which came about as a result of decades of effort.

Today, the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Washington is a respected and essential component of global Freemasonry, maintaining fraternal relations and expanding its influence beyond the United States.

A Legacy That Will Go On

The Grand Lodge's influence and influence are still expanding, as it has a presence that extends beyond Washington State to international jurisdictions. The organization's enduring mission to enhance the social, cultural, and economic well-being of humanity is as pertinent today as it was in 1870.

Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Washington is an institution that is deeply rooted in history and is dedicated to the development of a better future. It carries a proud heritage of resilience, service, and enlightenment as it continues to progress.



The United Grand Lodge of New South Wales and ACT

Modern Australia: Engagement and Outreach

The Masonic jurisdiction of the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales & ACT is one of the most community-oriented and visible in Australia. It is distinguished by a strong emphasis on transparency, public engagement, and large-scale charitable work across its activities.

A distinguishing characteristic of this Grand Lodge is its endeavour to increase the accessibility of Freemasonry to the general public. Through digital outreach, guided tours of Masonic centers, and open days, it endeavours to dispel misconceptions and encourage a more comprehensive understanding of the Craft.

The organization's mission remains centred around charity. The jurisdiction often responds promptly to national crises, such as bushfires and floods, by supporting medical research, emergency relief efforts, and social welfare programs. The organization's adaptability and dedication to serving society during difficult times are underscored by these initiatives.

However, its emphasis on member development is equally critical. Through educational workshops, mentoring systems, and structured degrees, members are motivated to develop their intellectual and ethical capacities. The continued relevance and impact of Freemasonry are guaranteed by its dual emphasis on internal growth and external service.



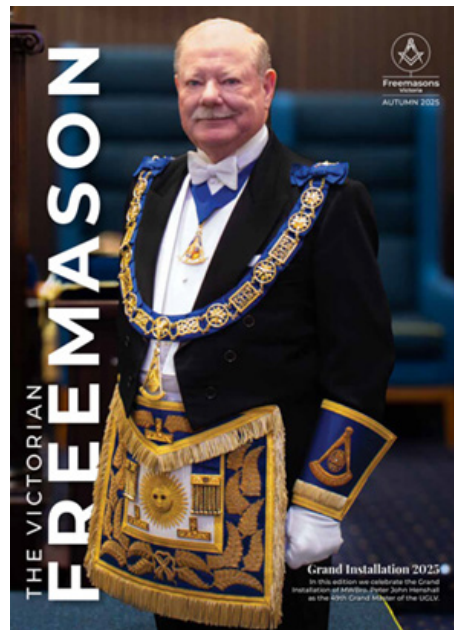
United Grand Lodge of Victoria Leadership, Youth, and Community Care

In particular, the United Grand Lodge of Victoria is distinguished by its innovative approach to youth leadership and community partnerships.

One of its most noteworthy contributions is its investment in youth development programs. The objective of these initiatives is to foster leadership abilities, ethical awareness, and confidence in young individuals, frequently in conjunction with schools and civic organisations. The influence of Victoria Freemasons is extended beyond their membership by engaging the next generation.

In addition, the Grand Lodge is actively engaged in the provision of healthcare support, with a variety of charitable initiatives that benefit medical institutions and hospitals. A direct and measurable impact on community well-being is a direct consequence of these endeavours, whether they involve funding equipment or supporting patient care services.

In addition, Victoria Freemasons are actively engaged in local partnerships, collaborating with community groups and charities to address social challenges. Their capacity to produce lasting, significant results is enhanced by this collaborative approach.



Freemasonry can be both progressive and tradition-driven, as evidenced by the Grand Lodge of Victoria's integration of humanitarian service and leadership development.



Grand Lodge of New Zealand Knowledge, Charity, and the Strive for Excellence

The Grand Lodge of New Zealand is distinguished by its long-standing dedication to public charity and its strong emphasis on intellectual development, research, and education.

One of the fundamental components of its endeavours is Masonic education. Members participate in lectures, research programs, and study groups that investigate the philosophical and historical aspects of Freemasonry. This learning culture cultivates a more profound understanding of the Craft and fortifies the intellectual life of the fraternity.

At the same time, the Grand Lodge is actively engaged in charitable initiatives that provide support to communities throughout New Zealand. Funding for social services, assistance programs, and national charitable campaigns that are designed to enhance the quality of life is among these.

A holistic perspective of Freemasonry is reflected in the integration of scholarship and service, which prioritises both practical action and thoughtful reflection.



Grand Lodge of Manitoba

“Service in Action: Manitoba Freemasonry and Community Impact”

Founded in 1875, the Grand Lodge of Manitoba is a Masonic jurisdiction that has endured throughout Canada. It is distinguished by its history, as well as its profound dedication to personal development, charity, and community service. Today, its activities are a practical application of Masonic values, transforming principles into programs that directly benefit society.

Within Manitoba Freemasonry, there is a robust tradition of charitable outreach. A transportation service that aids cancer patients in obtaining treatment in cities such as Brandon and Winnipeg is one of its most noteworthy initiatives, the Masons Care Program. The fraternity’s emphasis on compassion is underscored by this initiative, which provides tangible solutions to real-world needs.

In addition, Manitoba Masons are actively involved in national health campaigns, such as blood donation drives, through partnerships with Canadian Blood Services. These initiatives exhibit a consistent, hands-on approach to public health support.

An additional primary pillar is the Masonic Foundation of Manitoba, which annually allocates tens of thousands of dollars to charitable organisations. These funds provide support for a diverse array of initiatives, including community welfare projects and assistance for vulnerable populations, thereby guaranteeing that the fraternity’s influence is both meaningful and extensive.

However, the Grand Lodge prioritises personal development and education in addition to charitable contributions. Members convene in lodges throughout the province to cultivate their moral character and leadership abilities, as well as to study Masonic philosophy,

symbolism, and ethics.

Resources such as the Masonic Resource Centre, which offers lectures, research materials, and essay competitions, are also utilised by the organization to promote intellectual engagement. This series of activities fosters a deeper comprehension of Freemasonry among its members, while simultaneously contributing to its expanding body of knowledge.

Ultimately, the Grand Lodge of Manitoba serves as an example of Freemasonry that is both reflective and active, rooted in tradition and actively involved in enhancing the lives of others.



Grand Lodge of China

Tradition and International Brotherhood

In the global Freemasonry community, the Grand Lodge of China is distinguished by its ability to maintain a strong dedication to traditional practices while actively engaging in international Masonic relations.

Its endeavours prioritise the preservation of classical rituals, ceremonies, and teachings, thereby guaranteeing the Craft's connection to its historical roots. This adherence to tradition imparts a profound sense of identity and connection to its members.

In addition, the Grand Lodge engages in international conferences, exchanges, and fraternal visits to fortify its connections with other jurisdictions worldwide. Among diverse cultures, these interactions foster mutual understanding and reinforce the global nature of Freemasonry.

Members participate in community support and humanitarian initiatives, where charitable work continues to be a critical aspect of the organization's mission. Through these endeavours, the Grand Lodge illustrates that tradition and service can coexist harmoniously.



Grand Lodge of Russia Renewal and Revival in a Changing Society

In 1995, the Grand Lodge of Russia was re-established, which was a significant turning point in the history of Freemasonry in Eastern Europe. Today, its initiatives are focused on the reconstruction of the Craft, cultural dialogue, and education.

Members' education, particularly in the areas of Masonic philosophy, ethics, and history, is a primary objective. In a jurisdiction where Freemasonry is still in the process of re-establishing its presence after a decade-long absence, this emphasis is crucial.

In addition, the Grand Lodge fosters intellectual and cultural discourse by organising lecture series, discussions, and collaborative events that investigate more extensive societal concerns. The activities of Freemasonry are positioned as a contributor to cultural understanding and public discourse.

The scope of charitable engagement is steadily increasing, with initiatives that are designed to address social needs and support communities. Even though it is still in the process of development in comparison to older jurisdictions, the Grand Lodge of Russia has shown remarkable potential and progress.

Despite periods of historical interruption, Freemasonry has the ability to adapt and thrive, as evidenced by its journey of resilience and renewal.

In conclusion, a shared mission that transcends borders

Despite the fact that they are geographically, culturally, and historically separate, the Grand Lodges in amity with the Grand Lodge of the Philippines are united by a single, enduring objective: to enhance the individual and lift society. Jurisdictions such as the Grand Lodge of Manitoba, United Grand Lodge of New South Wales & ACT, United Grand Lodge of Victoria, Grand Lodge of New Zealand, Grand Lodge of China, and Grand Lodge of Russia reflect this shared commitment through meaningful action, spanning from North America to Asia and the Pacific.

They demonstrate that Freemasonry is not merely a tradition of the past, but a vibrant and active force for good in the present through their activities, which may include charity, education, leadership development, or cultural engagement. Throughout these jurisdictions, Masons persist in their quiet yet effective service, fostering the bonds of brotherhood and addressing the needs of their communities.

This mission is further advanced by the robustness of amity relations. Grand Lodges achieve this by fostering mutual recognition and cooperation, which enables them to strengthen fraternal bonds, extend support, and share knowledge across borders. Through these connections, individual endeavours are transformed into a movement that is truly global, one that fosters goodwill among men and fortifies communities.

A distinctive expression of the Craft is provided by each jurisdiction, which is influenced by its own culture and context. However, all are still governed by the same enduring principles: the pursuit of knowledge, service, and brotherhood. Freemasonry serves as an enduring illustration of unity in a world that is frequently characterised by division, illustrating that shared values can transcend boundaries and generate significant, positive change.

Ultimately, Masonry at work is Masonry at its most exceptional—a brotherhood that is united in purpose, without borders, and committed to leaving a lasting legacy of service to humanity.



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The Grand Lodge of the Philippines
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**International Grand Lodge Delegates to
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